



Outbreak Vomitus Collection Quick Sheet

General Outbreak Information

Any cluster of disease should be reported to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) within one working day after the county health department receives the report (A.A.C.R9-6-206F). The information provided at time of report includes location/setting of outbreak, number of cases and suspect cases, the date reported, the disease suspected, and important contact information.

The Arizona State Public Health Laboratory (ASL) can test vomitus specimens for viruses and certain bacterial toxins. Specimens should be collected as soon as possible after onset of illness.

General Instructions for Vomitus Collection Kits

- Notify ADHS-Epidemiology **BEFORE** submitting outbreak specimens to ASL
- Labels on vomitus collection tubes must be completed as thoroughly as possible and should include:
 - Patient's name and date of birth
 - Date of specimen collection
- **EACH** vomitus specimen submitted to ASL must be accompanied by an [ASL Microbiology Submission Form](#)
- The ASL Microbiology Submission Form must be filled out as completely as possible and should include:
 - Submitter information
 - Patient information- first and last name, date of birth or age, sex
 - Specimen information- Date of specimen collection, Specimen type
 - Outbreak Name- write the name of the outbreak somewhere on the form- in the future new submission forms will have a field for outbreak information
- Each vomitus specimen container must be placed in its individual plastic bag (provided with the kit). The ASL Microbiology Submission form should be placed in the outside pocket of the bag.
- Prior to submitting the specimens to ASL, keep a list of all the cases who submitted specimens and/or keep copies of laboratory submission forms
- Provide ADHS-Epidemiology with a list of names for whom specimens will be submitted to ASL for testing

Vomitus kits

The kits should contain:

- One pair of nitrile gloves
- One plastic spoon
- One screw-top specimen cup
- One plastic biohazard bags or zip-lock bags
- Absorbent sheets to place in the bag with specimens
- [ASL Microbiology Submission Form](#) and instruction sheet
- Instruction sheet for collection of specimens

Specific instructions:

- The ill person should vomit directly into a sterile screw-top specimen cup
- If this is not possible, the ill person should vomit in a container, bowl or plastic bag and then transfer the vomitus to the screwcapped container with a clean spoon
- Place the cap securely on the container and tape the lid in place
- Place the tube into a plastic bag and refrigerate until shipped
- The local health department should arrange for pick up or have the specimens mailed as soon as possible